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3. O. TEXANA (Scheele)

Ornithogalum Texanum Scheele, *Linnaea*, 23: 146.

Schoenolirion Texanum Gray, l. c.

Texas and Louisiana.

Observations upon a Clearing in July.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

During the past winter a piece of woodland about four miles from New Brunswick, N. J., along the trolley line to South River has been chopped over, the wood removed and the brush left in large piles. No attempt has been made to clear the field of stumps or shrubs, and this piece offers a good opportunity for the study of the effect upon the smaller species of plants of the removal of the larger ones. The lot, of possibly five acres, somewhat irregular in outline, is quite uneven, and being in some parts high and in others low, with a small stream running through it, a large variety of conditions obtain and a rich flora results.

In general, it was an ordinary mid-Jersey forest of possibly the third cutting. Among the trees are oaks, chesnuts, and some pines in the higher ground, while near the bog, magnolias are present and birches and alders. In the lower part the *Rhus Vernix* and a tangle of *Smilax rotundifolia* line the wet portion where *Habenaria lacera* and *Osmunda cinnamomea* give place to the skunk cabbage.

The clearing was first visited in May with a class of a dozen students in quest of specimens for their plant collections. Upon this trip nothing unusual was noted, only the flowering herbs engaged the attention, and these were found upon the cleared lot, although in less abundance than in the woods, presumably only because the felling of the trees, and other tramping incident to the removal of the wood, had destroyed many of these tender humble plants.

A second visit was made upon July 5th, at the time when in the low ground an occasional *Azalea viscosa* was white with its highly fragrant blooms.

In the wooded portion the huckleberries of at least three species and the squaw berry, *Vaccinium stamineum*, abounded,

and were well laden with green half-grown berries. These shrubs were few in the cleared land, browned as if sun burned, while the scattered berries were ripening and some fully ready for the pickers. The remarkable reduction in the number of these Ericaceous shrubs might be largely due to the harsh treatment in connection with the removal of the trees, but there seemed to be unmistakable evidence that the specimens that had escaped the ravages of the woodman were suffering from the added exposure that the clearing of the trees had brought them.

Among the herbaceous plants none were more strikingly affected by the removal of the trees than the skunk cabbage. While in the shade of the trees the leaves were broad and green as in their wont to be, in the clearing the foliage had a yellow sickly cast with not more than half the size of the blades of the shaded plants. A long slender-leaved sedge neither in bloom nor fruit stopped short at the clearing as if cut down by a scythe. A sphagnum that had its usual vigor in the shade was brown and dry-topped in the sun, and gave unmistakable signs of disliking the new situation. In the clearing many of the oak sprouts were scalded at the tip. Ferns were much smaller in the sun than in the shade, and this was particularly true of *Osmunda cinnamomea* which in the shade spread out its great fronds into large "eagle nests," while those in the sun were nearly upright, and besides being dwarfed were browned as if in late autumn. The *Osmunda regalis* was found only in the shade.

On the other hand the grape vines, of a slender growth in the woods, run rampant over the large brush piles, due to the greater freedom as much perhaps as to the increased sunlight they now enjoy. The *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* behaved similar to its kind in the shade with a striking difference in the shorter petioles in the sunned plants.

Over all these five acres there was a striking absence of plants common to the open. At one point about two rods from a public road there were found two plants of *Bidens frondosa* and one small one of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*. A half-dozen solidagos not yet in bloom, probably *S. Canadensis* were taken. The only striking instance of open air vegetation was two small tufts of *Holcus lanatus* upon a knoll, where seed of this velvet grass got a foothold no one can tell how.